

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please insert as the first sentence of the specification This is a continuation of application serial no. 09/018,103, filed on February 3, 1998, ^{now U.S. Patent 6,104,700} that is currently pending.

In the Claims:

For the Examiner's convenience all pending claims are presented herein. Those claims that remain unchanged by this amendment are prefixed with "(Unchanged)". Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Please cancel claims 4, 7-8, 21-27, 30-34 without prejudice, and add three new claims (36-38).

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method [of bandwidth management for use in a packet forwarding device coupled to a network, the method] comprising [the steps of]:
- receiving at a packet forwarding device information indicative of one or more traffic groups;
- receiving at the packet forwarding device one or more bandwidth parameters for at least one of the one or more traffic groups[;], the bandwidth parameters including at least a minimum bandwidth parameter indicating a minimum amount of bandwidth the at least one traffic group needs to be provided over a defined time period;
- receiving at a first port of a plurality of ports a packet associated with the at least one traffic group; and
- scheduling the packet for transmission from a second port of the plurality of ports based upon the one or more bandwidth parameters for the at least one traffic group with which the packet is associated.